

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

## Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Progress Report

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**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

As a first step in the ESI Strategic Plan update, and in response to the Council priority related to the ESI, staff will provide an update on progress toward the City's environmental goals.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS****Background**

The ESI formally began in 2007 with a mission "To exercise focused leadership with a "One City" approach, to implement continuous change, learning and innovation in practices that drive the organization and the City of Bellevue toward achieving the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Vision." The work of the ESI over the past five years has been guided by the ESI Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which includes 57 actions related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water, mobility and land use, ecosystems and open space, and materials management and waste for both our municipal operations and the entire community.

This presentation will respond to Council's 2018-2020 priority related to the ESI to "review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the city may wish to take to achieve environmental goals (e.g. tree canopy)", (Priority #11).

**ESI Strategic Plan Update Process**

On November 13, 2018, staff presented to Council on the scope and approach for updating the ESI Strategic Plan and noted that the first step in the process would be to review progress to date. As presented on November 13, the updated ESI Strategic Plan will build on the current plan and existing efforts, and will be an action-oriented plan aimed at implementing existing environmental policies. In addition, through the plan update process, opportunities for new or updated goals or policies may be identified, for discussion and direction by Council. The planning process will seek to engage with a diverse group of residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders to foster broad community engagement and support for the plan. The planning process will also seek to build partnerships in the community to achieve the City's environmental goals.

The approach to addressing the Council priority related to ESI will be to take the following steps as part of the ESI Strategic Plan update:

- Review progress with the ESI Strategic Plan Progress report (tonight’s presentation)
- Review the City’s environmental goals and update as appropriate (next ESI Council presentation)
- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in the updated ESI plan
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on progress of ESI and possible additional actions
- Develop draft ESI Strategic Plan for public comment
- Finalize ESI Strategic Plan for adoption by Council




**Key Findings from ESI Progress Report – Progress Toward Goals**


The ESI Progress Report summarizes progress toward the City’s environmental goals, key project highlights from the past five years, and provides an update on each of the actions in the ESI Strategic Plan and, in some cases, considerations for possible next steps. The report summarizes progress on the most relevant environmental goals, some of which are reflected in the ESI Strategic Plan, and others that have been developed more recently and are included in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update or other strategic plans.




These goals are a mix of short-term and long-term goals, aspirational and more achievable goals, measurable and qualitative goals, and goals which are included in Council adopted plans or in other strategic plans. One objective of the updated ESI Strategic Plan will be to include all of the most recent environmental goals, and potentially some new or updated goals, under one umbrella, to help knit together the City’s environmental efforts into one comprehensive strategy.

Tonight’s presentation will focus on the existing adopted goals. The next ESI presentation will review the goals and discuss possible additional goals or updates to some goals.

A summary of the City’s adopted environmental goals and our current performance is below. The status indicates the following:

Status	
<i>On Track</i>	
<i>Needs Improvement</i>	
<i>Not on Track</i>	

Goal	Source	Current Performance	Status
<i>Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 (Equivalent to 32% reduction below 2011 levels)</i>	<i>Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, 2006</i>	<i>Reduced community greenhouse gas emissions by 7% between 2011 and 2017</i>	

	(Resolution 7517)		
Reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012  (Equivalent to 38% reduction below 2011 levels)	Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, 2006 (Resolution 7517)	Reduced municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 19% between 2011 and 2017	
Reduce drive alone rate for city residents to 55% by 2035	Comprehensive Plan	65% in 2017	
Increase tree canopy to 40% Citywide	Comprehensive Plan	37% in 2017	

The attached ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report (Attachment A) provides a more comprehensive summary of progress to date on the City's environmental goals, along with a discussion of progress in implementing the ESI Strategic Plan.

### Recommendations and Next Steps

In the next ESI presentation, staff will initiate a discussion with Council on possible additional environmental goals the Council may wish to consider, related to topics such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, air quality, and stormwater.

## POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

### Policy Impact

This presentation addresses the implementation of several policies related to the ESI, as outlined below. This presentation also responds to Council's 2018-2020 priority #11, to review progress of the ESI and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy).

The updated ESI Strategic Plan will seek to further implementation of the following policies:

#### *Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Environmental Element*

The Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides the key policy directives driving ESI's work.

- EN-4. Promote and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy resources as an alternative to non-renewable resources.
- EN-5. Protect air, water, land, and energy resources consistent with Bellevue's role in the regional growth strategy.
- EN-6. Establish an achievable citywide target and take corrective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as reducing energy consumption and vehicle emissions, and enhancing land use patterns to reduce vehicle dependency.

- EN-8. Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation.
- EN-9. Educate the public about environmental issues and illustrate how individual actions can have a cumulative effect to benefit the environment.
- EN-12. Work toward a Citywide tree canopy target of at least 40 percent canopy coverage that reflects our “City in a Park” character and maintain an action plan for meeting the target across multiple land use types including right-of way, public lands, and residential and commercial uses.
- EN-48. Support the use of emerging best practices in the area of green building and site design through the use of pilot programs and model ordinances.

*Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement (Res. 7517)*

Council agreed in February 2006 to strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets (7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012) for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and similar actions within our community.

*King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789)*

Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014. The K4C is a partnership among 13 cities and King County working collaboratively to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

*King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), Environmental Element*

Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. Assuming 1 percent annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) by 2020, 5 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>, and 1.5 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2050 (CPP EN-18).

**Fiscal Impact**

The 2019-2020 City budget includes \$310,000 to support the update and implementation of the ESI Strategic Plan.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

A. Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan Progress Report

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan 2013-2018